

CAST Section 508 Statement of Policy

CAST believes its commitment to accessible products and solutions will allow us to support the United States Government in making accessible technology choices. We are proactively educating our product teams about Section 508 and the Access Board's proposed standards and evaluating all current and future functionalities for compliance to the concerns as defined in the specifications below. CAST works closely with product management from a variety of leading software publishers to ensure usability by the widest range of users.

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CAST

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General Comments:

CAST Application Intelligence Platform is a Windows based software package and is fully compatible with the standard Windows Accessibility features.

CAST is unique software offering. As of July 2013, there are no software products that map to the unique features and functionalities of the CAST AI Platform.

Specific comments pertaining to CAST and Section 1194.21 regarding Software Applications and Operating Systems:

(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.

All functions have keyboard shortcuts. CAST products also follow all Windows standards (ex: CTRL+X for cut) and tab and arrow navigation controls for selection dialogs. All textual reports can be derived from the keyboard.

(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.

CAST AI Platform has always been fully compatible with the standard accessibility features of all versions of Windows. There is no known conflict with any accessibility software products that have been fully Windows compliant. CAST AI Platform does not disable nor disrupt activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features.

(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that assistive technology can track focus and focus changes.

CAST AI Platform provides well defined on screen indication of the focus providing visual feedback that allows the user to track input focus changes.

CAST is Windows compliant -- as the active zones change with the focus of the mouse. CAST also makes extensive use of the hourglass, a variety of pointers and text dialogs to indicate the "occupied" state of the software

(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to assistive technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.

Following advanced Windows programming conventions, Tool-Tip Text is provided for each icon in all CAST AI Platform toolbars. CAST AI Platform also provides Tool-Tip Text on each of the objects in a view. The Tool-Tip Text information is also replicated in the status bar at the lower left bottom of the window.

(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.

CAST programming guidelines enforce this practice throughout the CAST AI Platform Software.

(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.

CAST AI Platform displays text in standard dialog boxes or by using defined Windows standard methods and representations and is therefore compliant.

(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.

CAST AI Platform does not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes

(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.

CAST AI Platform does not have any animated information germane to the core functionality of the Software.

(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.

CAST AI Platform does not rely upon color-coding as the sole means of conveying information.

(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform does not permit the user to adjust color as color is not the sole means of conveying information to the user.

(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.

CAST AI Platform does not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.

(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.

CAST AI Platform does not use electronic forms.

Specific comments pertaining to CAST and Section 1194.31 regarding functional performance criteria.

(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform runs solely on Microsoft Windows whose assistive technology “Narrator” reads what is displayed on screen e.g. the contents of an active window, menu options or text that has been typed.

(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for assistive technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform runs solely on Microsoft Windows whose assistive technology component “Magnifier” creates a separate, window that displays a magnified portion of the screen. Screen resolutions that substantially magnify screen contents can be used without adversely affecting the functionality like CAST AI Platform.

(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform has no feature that makes sole use of sound for delivering any specific functionality.

(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform has no feature that makes sole use of audio for delivering any specific functionality.

(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform has no feature that makes use of speech input for delivering any specific functionality.

(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.

CAST AI Platform runs solely on Microsoft Windows which offers a number of keyboard access assistive technologies for fine motor control e.g. "FilterKeys", "StickyKeys", "MouseKeys", "On-Screen Keyboard" & "Shortcut Keys".

Specific comments pertaining to CAST and Section 1194.41 regarding Information, Documentation, and Support

(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge.

Documentation is currently published in an electronic format (<http://doc.castsoftware.com/>) in addition to any textual documentation and on line help. Additional information may be required from the client to determine if this meets specific accessibility requirements at no additional charge.

(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.

Compliance documentation is currently provided in hard copy and electronic versions. Additional information may be required from the clients to determine if this compliance can meet specific accessibility requirements at no additional charge.

(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.

CAST offers technical support via, e-mail, video conferencing, on-line meeting platforms using controlled screens or voice to provide maximum flexibility and accommodation.

<http://www.castsoftware.com/client-services/technical-support>